



STATE OF MICHIGAN

**Family  
Independence  
Agency**

235 S. Grand Avenue  
PO Box 30037  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Tel: (517) 373-2035  
Fax: (517) 373-8471  
[www.mfia.state.mi.us](http://www.mfia.state.mi.us)

DOUGLAS E. HOWARD, Director

# News Release

**Contact:** Maureen Sorbet  
MFIA Office of Communications

**Phone:** (517) 373-7394

**Date:** November 7, 2001

## **Food Stamps renamed Food Assistance Program**

LANSING – Family Independence Agency director Douglas

E. Howard today announced Michigan's Food Stamp program is being renamed the Food Assistance Program, effective immediately.

"Michigan is now administering the Food Assistance Program," said Howard. "The Food Stamp program has seen no fundamental changes since 1977. We believe it is time to modernize the program and what better way to start than with the name."

The renamed Food Assistance Program increases the food purchasing power of low-income households. In July 2001, the FIA completed the implementation of the Electronic Benefits Transfer program. Through this process, Food Assistance and Family Independence Program customers now receive their benefits electronically, thus eliminating the issuance of food stamp coupons and checks.

-more-



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

“Some will see this as merely a symbolic change,” said Governor John Engler. “But it is sending an important message to the customers, the public and our leaders in Washington that Michigan is moving this program into the future.”

For fiscal year 2001, an average of 274,526 families representing 623,335 individuals received food assistance on a monthly basis.

Howard indicated that while the name change is effective immediately, it will take several months to phase in as policies, notices, and program literature are updated.

# # #

For more information consult our website at [www.mfia.state.us](http://www.mfia.state.us)